

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03106 062144Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W
-----075761 062148Z /72

P 062040Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8010
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3106

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, UK, BH, FT, CS
SUBJECT: COSTA RICA CONDEMNS USE OF FORCE IN GUATEMALA - BELIZE
IU DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY: THE COSTA RICAN CABINET HAS PUBLICLY CONDEMNED
USE OF FORCE TO RESOLVE BELIZE QUESTION, AND HAS CALLED FOR
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS WHICH BEGAN JULY 6.
FACIO PRIVATELY HAS EXPRESSED HIS AND GOCR'S DISENCHANTMENT WITH
GUATEMALA. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF GOCR STATEMENT AS CARRIED JULY 6 IN SAN JOSE PRESS:
BEGIN QUOTE: "PRESIDENT ODUBER MET WITH THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT
JULY 5, 1977. AMONG THE SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA WAS THE PROBLEM
OF BELIZE.

ONCE THE SITUATION WAS EXAMINED, HEARING THE REPORTS OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTER AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PERSISTENT REPORTS
IN THE MEDIA ABOUT A POSSIBLE ARMED CONFLICT IN BELIZE, THE
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT OPPORTUNE TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

BEGIN QUOTE
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1. TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WULL BEGIN
IN WASHINGTON JULY 6 BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS OF GUATEMALA
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL PRODUCE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
OF DIFFERENCES, WITH A FORMULA THAT TAKES DULY INTO
ACCOUNT THE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS OF GUATEMALA AGAINST THE
UNITED KINGDOM, PROTECTING THE JUST INTERESTS OF THE
BELIZEAN POPULATION.

2. TO REAFFIRM THAT THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM OF BELIZE, SUCH AS ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, CAN AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY.

3. TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT, AT NO TIME A MILITARY CONFRONTATION TAKE PLACE WHICH WOULD CONVERT CENTRAL AMERICAN TERRITORY INTO A BATTLEGROUND IN WHICH FORCES FOREIGN TO CENTRAL AMERICA COULD PARTICIPATE. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: FONMIN FACIO, IN COMMENTS JULY 5 TO AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF, EXPRESSED HIS DISENCHANTMENT WITH GUATEMALA IN THIS LATEST PHASE OF DISPUTE. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY ECHOED THIS SENTIMENT TO AMBASSADOR JULY 6 IN NOTING THAT BELIZE WAS WELL VENTILATED IN PREVIOUS DAY'S CABINET MEETING. HE OPINED THAT GUATEMALA WOULD NOT INVADE AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES BLUSTERING.

4. FACIO NOTED THAT GOCR DECLARATION WAS ISSUED TO WARN GOG PUBLICLY THAT GOCR WILL NOT SUPPORT GUATEMALA IF GUATEMALAN MILITARY TAKES ARMED ACTION. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT DAYS HE HAS EXPRESSED DISGUST WITH INTEMPERATE DECLARATIONS BEING MADE. IN ADDITION TO REBUFF OF EFFORT THROUGH GOCR EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA TO ENLIST SYMPATHY FOR ANY GOG MILITARY ACTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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MINSEC REPORTS GOCR HAS TAKEN UNRESPONSIVE POSITION RE ANY CONDECA INVOLVEMENT. AT SAME TIME, FACIO HAS BACKED AWAY FROM THE "SUDETEN"-LIKE FORMULA HE SUGGESTED DURING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT (INVOLVING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS SOUTH OF MONKEY RIVER WHERE MAYA-AMICHE POPULATION PRESUMABLY PREDOMINATES) AS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE. REASON - NO TAKERS. WEISSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, LOBBYING, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DISPUTES, INDEPENDENCE, PEACE TALKS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANJO03106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770240-0231
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770787/aaaacxti.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02753570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1950477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COSTA RICA CONDEMNS USE OF FORCE IN GUATEMALA - BELIZE IU DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, UK, BH, FT, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02753570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009